



### Treasure in Heaven

**“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal” (Matthew 6:19).**

We have all had treasures in our lives—things we stored away in safe places and delighted in. When I was a child my greatest treasures had to do with my family heritage—a sword from my Scottish ancestors, a heraldic broach, the names I bore connecting me to a past of dignity, royalty, adventure, and romance. I spent a lot of time storing up the things that connected me to that past, and I took great pride in everything I possessed, be it knowledge in my mind or objects in my room. Whether people acknowledged it or not, these things were my “glory” and “honor.”

It wasn't until I was a little older and spending more time in God's Word that I realized my “treasure” and my inheritance held no value in the Kingdom of Heaven. To be a Believer in Jesus Christ is to be an heir in His family, to hold fast to His lineage, and to treasure His Kingdom. We die to our first birth and are born again into a new family— *“to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved”* (Ephesians 1:5b-6). God has given Believers *“the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God”* (John 1:13). As children of God, we are no longer associated with our human bloodlines, we die to the circumstances of our human birth, and we cast off the schemes, plans, inheritances, and vendettas of our ancestors. We are a new people who

will sing with the Elders in Heaven to Jesus, *“You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth”* (Revelation 5:9b-10). As Believers, we are now members of God's family, we are born into Christ's bloodline, we have a new circumstance to our birth, and we have a new plan and inheritance to be focused on.

That inheritance means we have treasure stored up in Christ. Our treasures now are the things of God, and we are to *“walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God”* (Colossians 1:10). We give up our connections to the world and our focus on the inheritance of the world. Instead, we focus on our inheritance in the Kingdom of Heaven that *“is like a treasure hidden in the field, which a man found and hid again; and from joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field”* (Matthew 13:44), parting with his worldly treasure for his Heavenly one. How easily a wealthy man who is starving would gladly give away his wealth and heritage for food—think of Esau. Oh, to be like Job and be able to say, *“I have treasured the words of His mouth more than my necessary food”* (Job 23:12b) - an eternal treasure vs. the fading, temporary treasures of worldly inheritance.

As Children of God, we are *“to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, storing up for [ourselves] the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that [we] may take hold of that which is life indeed”* (1 Timothy 6:18-19), knowing that Jesus is *“the stability of your times, A wealth of salvation, wisdom and knowledge; The fear of the Lord is his treasure”* (Isaiah 33:6b).